VOL. XIV. - No 2. February 1933.

League OF Red Cross Societies

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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The League of Red Cross Societies is an international organization grouping together, for their peace-time activities, the National Societies, of the following countries : Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chili, China, Colombia Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, Netherlands East Indies, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Salvador, Siam, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

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CENTRAL EUROPEAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE

Prague, April 12th to 15th, 1933.

THE RED CROSS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

The Prague Conference

The Third Regional Conference of Central European Red Cross Societies has been convened to meet in Prague on April 12th and 13th next. The national Societies of the following countries have been invited to send delegates in a deliberative capacity: Austria, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

Two questions of supreme importance for the activities of the national Societies have been inscribed on the agenda, viz.,

a) The Red Cross and its responsibilities as regards nursing.

b) The organization and activities of local Red Cross committees.

The participating Societies have been asked to delegate, insofar as may be possible, two members of their central secretariat, one specialized in nursing matters and the other in organization and administrative questions, as well as two persons representing the most active of their local committees.

Two printed reports on the above subjects will be distributed prior to the conference. No resolutions will be passed in the course of the sessions, but a succinct account of the proceedings and of the main points in the discussions will be compiled and sent to each delegate in due course.

Those attending the Conference will be able to take part in the ''Red Cross Truce'' which is to be proclaimed in Prague on April 15th.

Cuban Hurricane

On December 2nd, the American Red Cross sent an additional contribution of $5,000 to the Cuban Red Cross for the relief of the survivors of the hurricane and tidal wave which devastated a large area of the island on November 9th. This further donation brings the total contribution from American sources to $10,500.

Greek Earthquakes: *Contributions.*

On October 1st, 1933, the international Red Cross bodies launched an appeal to certain of the national Societies on behalf of the victims of the earthquakes in Chalcidice. This appeal was followed, two days later, by Joint Circular No. 16 informing all the Societies of the situation.

Up to the present, ten national Societies have responded to the appeal, the latest donation being that of the Swedish Red Cross, which has appropriated 500 Kronen from its international relief fund to relieve the plight of the inhabitants of the earthquake area. Previous donations were from Egypt, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Roumania, Spain, Turkey, United States and Yugoslavia.

Death of Calvin Coolidge

The death of Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States from 1923 to 1928, removes one who has been most helpful to the Red Cross. Like all presidents of the United States, he was also President of the American Red Cross and continued to serve as Vice-President after the expiration of his presidential term. Both he and Mrs. Coolidge always manifested the keenest interest in the work of the American Red Cross and he personally did much to establish the place of the Red Cross as the agency of the American people in disaster relief both at home and abroad. On more than one occasion the President, who spoke little but acted quickly, cut through governmental red tape to give the Red Cross the assistance needed to bring speedy relief to disaster sufferers.

The Red Cross throughout the world will join sympathetically with the American Red Cross in regretting the loss of its ex-president, a man devoted to Red Cross ideals both nationally and internationally.

Helen Scott Hay

Miss Helen Scott Hay of the American Red Cross Nursing Service, who died in Savanna, Illinois, on November 25th, played such an active part in Europe during the War and the years immediately following it that her death will be deeply felt by all the Red Cross Societies with whom she closely worked.

She first came to Europe as Superintendent of the 120 Red Cross Nurses who sailed for Europe in the Red Cross ship. From 1914-1917 she was Superintendent of the Red Cross Nursing Unit in Europe, during which time she worked in Russia where she organized a Unit of American Red Cross Nurses in the Military Hospital in Kief.

Later, at the request of Queen Eleanor, she went to Bulgaria where she was one of the pioneers in the establishment of the Red Cross School for Nurses which has been so instrumental in raising the standards of nursing in Bulgaria.

In 1918, the War at an end, the American Red Cross was carrying out extensive work in many of the European countries and Miss Hay was chosen, on account of her quiet forceful character, her wisdom, experience and executive ability, to direct the Nursing Service. It was her extensive travels during this period, initiating and supervising American Red Cross nursing in Czechoslovakia, Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria, Poland, Greece, Roumania, Albania, Montenegro and Turkey, which brought her so closely in touch with Red Cross work in these countries, where her loss will be acutely regretted.

Increasing Red Cross Membership

No Red Cross Society can exist without members nor meet its many responsibilities successfully without adequate funds. The question of enrolling new members is of the greatest practical importance both in extending the basis on which the financial position of the Society rests and in increasing the number of those personally and directly interested in the humanitarian work of the Red Cross. In these times of crisis, when calls for help are more urgent and more numerous than ever, and when family budgets are smaller, it is increasingly necessary for Red Cross Societies to pool information on methods of conducting membership campaigns.

The success of the recent roll call campaign by the Hartford Chapter, Connecticut, U. S. A. makes it worth while mentioning some of the methods it used in enlisting support. The local Chapter Chairman appointed by letter 350 sponsors, leading men and women of the city, asking each to enrol 25 members, and approximately half of the membership was secured in this way. Booths placed in prominent places, in banks, shops, hotels, insurance company offices and public buildings, each with a corps of workers to solicit memberships, succeeded in enrolling about 2,500 persons. School teachers were solicited through a special committee after the Board of Education and the City Superintendent of Schools had requested all the teachers to give their support.

Junior League members, Girl and Boy Scouts, worked at canvassing and at distributing posters for window display in shops and business premises throughout the town. The newspapers contributed their share to the movement by giving it wide publicity with front page space and special pages, and by printing broadcast speeches by prominent speakers on the roll call. Every other night, time was allowed by the broadcasting company for speeches or for a Red Cross programme. Six theatres helped in distributing Red Cross leaflets and one gave a special Red Cross night.

In this connexion, it is interesting to note the importance attached by the American Red Cross to wireless propaganda.

During its recent membership campaign, it enlisted the voices of two of the foremost public men in the country: President Hoover, who is also president of the American Red Cross, and Alfred E. Smith, former Governor of New York, who spoke in place of the President elect, Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had to cancel his engagement to speak on account of ill-health.

Other prominent speakers who were broadcast were Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, of the Supreme Court of the United States and Vice-president of the American Red Cross, Judge Payne, chairman of the Red Cross, and Mrs. Henry P. Davison, widow of the founder and first chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies.

A dramatic and interesting feature of the programme were broadcast accounts by three people who had benefited by Red Cross help: a farmer from the north west who told how the Red Cross came to the rescue of his family and livestock when he was bereft of resources by drought, grasshopper plague and the depression; an unemployed man from Chicago whose family had been aided, and a wife and mother from a small New England community.

A patient search would doubtless bring to light many other original ideas. All may not be applicable to every country but to disseminate knowledge of them is to serve the best interests of the Red Cross movement.

International Relief Union

The French Government has officially appointed the French Red Cross to represent it on the General Council of the International Relief Union, by virtue of Art. 6 of the Convention.

Several other national Red Cross Societies, including the German, Bulgarian and Polish, have received similar mandates from their governments.

New Junior Red Cross Brochure

In view of the growing interest displayed by members of the teaching profession, and more particularly professors of modern languages, in Junior Red Cross magazines, it occurred to the League some time ago that, by publishing a brochure on this subject, it might be rendering a very genuine service to national Societies in the prosecution of their propaganda campaigns.

The first edition has now appeared in English under the title of: "*Looking into Other Lands*" and has been accorded an enthusiastic reception by the Junior Red Cross sections in the different countries to which it has been sent.

The brochure, which is profusely illustrated, reproduces the coverpages of all the national Junior magazines, with a brief description of their aims, contents and subscription rates. Copies may be obtained from the League Secretariat on request.

Florence Nightingale

The British Red Cross has recently reproduced an autographed photo of Florence Nightingale, the original of which is in the possession of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair. The reproduction, which is 13 × 18 inches, can be obtained from the British Red Cross at the price of 4/- each, with a reduction of 25 per cent for one dozen.

AUSTRALIA

A New Fund-Raising Device

An inhabitant of Kurrajong Heights, a picturesque region of Australia, has devised an original plan for helping the Red Cross. Each year, when the spring flowers are in bloom, he throws open his garden to the public, who pay a small entrance fee for the privilege of inspecting his display of rhododendrons famous throughout the district. The sums thus collected are turned over to the Red Cross.

Special Christmas Number

In 1932, thanks to the success of a venture promoted by the Junior Red Cross, the Australian Red Cross Society was able to issue a special Christmas number of its magazine, containing a pictorial supplement and a free dressmaking pattern. The Society suggested that its members might send this number to their friends in lieu of the customary Christmas greeting.

BELGIUM

Ambulance Service

The Belgian Red Cross has every reason to be proud of its service for the transport of the sick. At the close of 1932, it was able to report that 27 motor-ambulance centres were organized in different provinces, that 39 ambulances were in permanent use and that upwards of 10,000 patients were carried during the year. The system has been developed with such foresight that no parish is more than forty kilometres distant from a Red Cross ambulance centre.

The service is an admirable example of an ideal ambulance organization : an agency for rendering prompt emergency aid on the spot and then conducting the patient with speed and comfort to a centre where he may receive proper attention.

BRAZIL

New Secretary General

Dr. Florencio Carlos de Abreu Pereira having resigned his functions as Secretary-General of the Brazilian Red Cross, the vacant post has been offered to and accepted by *Dr. Manuel C. de Goes Monteiro*, the Society's representative on the Board of Governors of the League.

Propaganda Campaign

The cause of Red Cross propaganda was admirably served by the "Week" held throughout Brazil last autumn. All the resources offered by modern publicity methods were concentrated on this campaign, the object of which was to familiarize the Brazilian public with the aims and activities of the Red Cross and to bring in new members.

Throughout "Red Cross Week", Rio de Janeiro was literally inundated with Red Cross propaganda in the form of badges and leaflets distributed in the streets, shops and public vehicles, public meetings, house-to-house visits and newspaper articles. More than half a million leaflets, bearing the following appeal, were scattered from the house-tops in one of the main thoroughfares of the town:

"Have you already helped the Red Cross? While you are hesitating, a human being is dying of cold".

"People of Brazil: the Red Cross does not ask for funds to maintain war; it wants your support for building up peace".

"The Red Cross has spread a protecting mantle over the whole country. There should no longer be any distress which cannot immediately be assuaged. However poor you may be, you can spare your mite to the Red Cross and help it to fulfil its mission".

The enrolment of new members and the collection of funds was entrusted to ladies occupying gaily-decorated booths at all the strategic points of the city. The September issue of the Brazilian Red Cross magazine was given up entirely to "Red Cross Week". A noteworthy feature of this number was the fact that all the articles were signed by women. It was, moreover, the feminine element which played the foremost part in this great manifestation.

BULGARIA

Novel Form of Diplomatic Immunity

As in past years, members of the diplomatic corps, as well as Bulgarian and foreign officials, were considered as having discharged their seasonal obligations if, instead of leaving cards or making the usual New Year visits, they contributed a sum of 100 levas or more to the Red Cross. The amounts were collected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Sofia and the names of contributors published in the principal newspapers.

Relief for Poor of Sofia

With a view to providing a certain measure of good cheer for the indigent poor of Sofia during the Christmas and New Year festivities, a relief committee for destitute families was set up to launch a public appeal on their behalf. Prominent among the signatories of this appeal was Professor Daneff, Chairman of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

CHILI

First National Convention

With a view to lending fresh impetus to its work, standardizing its activities and making known the results already achieved, the Chilian Red Cross held its first Convention during the last week of December, 1932, all the local Red Cross committees being invited to send delegates.

The obstacles in the way of organizing such a manifestation in a country with the topographical situation of Chili may be readily imagined when one considers that the territory of the republic, although relatively small in actual area, occupies more than half the Pacific seaboard of the South American continent. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that, although the foundation of the Society dates back to 1903, nothing of the kind had ever been attempted before.

The arrangements for the meeting were entrusted to an executive committee sitting at Santiago. The agenda comprised such problems of general interest as membership enrolment, the co-ordination of activities of local committees, the co-ordination of the social work of the Red Cross, disaster relief preparedness, aid to unemployed, nursing, Junior Red Cross, etc. The collaboration of the Chilian

Red Cross with the international Red Cross bodies, and the question of international and Pan-American conferences formed the subject of careful debate.

This brief account, though necessarily incomplete, is nevertheless sufficient to give an idea of the importance of the meeting. It is to be hoped that the success attendant upon this enterprise will inspire other Latin-American Societies to organize similar manifestations.

Hygiene in the School

A recent issue of the Chilian Junior Red Cross magazine announces that the Junior Red Cross has succeeded, in three months, in achieving an object which the school-teacher had been vainly pursuing for fourteen years, viz., to induce the pupils of a certain school to observe the rules of cleanliness.

The same issue of the magazine reproduces the following testimonial from a school-mistress:

"The Junior Red Cross has halved our supervisory work, for the Juniors respect the rules enjoining upon them to speak the truth and to make no noise. Unkind words and malicious teasing have vanished since the advent of the Junior Red Cross in the school. The Juniors are zealous advocates of hygiene and play the 'Health Game' assiduously".

The experience of this lady has been that of teachers in many countries since the Junior Red Cross was introduced. Such gratifying results are eloquent of the praiseworthy spirit which is animating Juniors all over the world in doing good and helping to promote the Red Cross ideal.

DENMARK

Samaritans and Juniors collaborate

A striking example of the manner in which members of the Junior Red Cross are being trained to become useful citizens is provided by the fact that the men's first aid detachment in Copenhagen recently invited Juniors having taken their first-aid certificate during the year to join in one of their life-saving demonstrations.

FRANCE

The Red Cross and Unemployment

In an effort to alleviate unemployment, the French Red Cross organized, during the Christmas and New Year holidays, sales of artificial flowers made by out-of-work women and of frocks made in the Paris dressmaking houses with fabrics manufactured in Lyons.

In commending this initiative, the Marquis de Lillers, President of the Central Committee of the French Red Cross, issued the following statement to the press:

"The Red Cross is not merely the humanitarian organization whose mission in time of war is so familiar to the public; it also has its permanent sphere of usefulness in peace time.

"The French Red Cross is anxious to co-operate with the government in combating unemployment, which is particularly acute in the luxury trades.

"In Paris, thousands of young women and girls have been thrown out of employment, with small hope of finding other work. Desirous of doing something to remedy this deplorable situation, we have sought means of collaborating with the public authorities, of whom we are still the auxiliaries. From one end of the country to the other, we are waging a crusade against the 'crisis of confidence'. *The Red Cross spirit* which animates our thousands of members and the kindly co-operation which we have received have already begun to bear fruit.

"With the assistance of all the silk-mercers of Lyons, who have sent us large quantities of their richest materials, we have made arrangements with the leading dressmaking houses of Paris, whereby the latter have agreed to make frocks with material purchased from the Red Cross, simply charging for the actual work accomplished.

"By this means, we hope to create a fresh demand on the part of a certain category of the public who, while co-operating in a good work, will at the same time be helping to provide a partial remedy for unemployment".

GERMANY

Unemployment and Public Health

The December, 1932, issue of *Blätter des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes* was devoted, almost in its entirety, to the effects of the economic crisis on public health in Germany. In compiling this number, the German Red Cross was fortunate in securing the collaboration of several eminent economists, who contributed authoritative articles on the following subjects: Economic Distress and the Public Health. The Feeding of Working-class Families, Epidemiological Statistics in Time of Crisis, The Moral Distress arising from the Economic Crisis, The Housing Crisis and its Significance from the Standpoint of the Population Policy.

GREAT BRITAIN

Moral Aid for Unemployed

Those of our readers who follow social service developments in their own and other countries may possibly recall the mass meeting held last year at the Albert Hall in London, at which the Prince of Wales made an earnest appeal to the public to cultivate the spirit of neighbourliness and to "do something to break up this terrible and terrifying power of unemployment over men's lives".

Speaking recently at Newcastle, during a tour of the depressed areas, His Royal Highness said: "I have been much impressed to hear from one place and other of attempts being made to help many to find occupation that will keep them fit and make their unhired services of benefit to others. I hope such schemes will be started wherever they are needed and that each community will thus contribute towards the solution of this vast problem".

At a meeting held at British Red Cross headquarters on December 9th, a letter was read from the National Council of Social Service (which is in charge of the developments arising out of the Prince's appeal) making a special request for the co-operation of the Red Cross. In some counties, the work has already been set on foot. Working parties have

been arranged and teaching in simple First Aid and Home Nursing is being given in connection with occupation centres for the unemployed. These classes present the twofold advantage of bringing home the practical application of health teaching and of helping the unemployed man who receives such instruction to retain his sense of usefulness to the community.

A Year's Work at the Rheumatism Clinic

The British Red Cross Society's model clinic for rheumatism in London held an "At Home" on January 6th, 1933, at which Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Society, was present.

In congratulating the staff on the work of the past year, Sir Arthur said that the attendances during the year were 86,629. Over 52 per cent of the cases had either been cured outright or very considerably improved.

The aim of the clinic was to provide men and women with treatment at hours which did not interfere with their work. In this it had been successful, since 58 per cent. of the men and 28 per cent. of the women had been able to carry on with their normal occupations and yet come to the clinic. Over 500 people attended daily.

During the year, nearly 15,000 consultations were given by the honorary medical staff. Seventy-three approved societies were now sending patients to the clinic for treatment.

Predisposing Factors to Rheumatism

The real problem of rheumatism is to discover why people become rheumatic and what are the causes which provoke—or at least favour—its appearance. It is unquestionable that, if the causes of the evil were better known, the cure would be infinitely easier to find.

It has been observed that factors which affect the general equilibrium of health frequently pave the way to the onset of the disease. So patent was this to Miss M. E. Edminson, who, as Almoner to the British Red Cross Clinic for Rheumatism, is in a position to study the records of thousands of cases, that, through her representations, a research worker was appointed in 1931 to investigate the social and economic factors encountered in the pre-rheumatic stage. The material for this study was derived from the investigations made in the Almoner's department at the above-mentioned clinic. The results of this investigation formed the basis of a report on *Predisposing Factors in Chronic Rheumatism* which was presented by Miss Joyce Blackman at the International Conference of Social Work in Frankfort last summer.

That report, which was the outcome of collaboration between the British Institute of Hospital Almoners and the Red Cross, appears to be a first attempt to study and define emotional and occupational factors in regard to chronic rheumatic diseases. Although no new cause has been discovered, careful enquiry has substantiated the old belief that the onset of rheumatism is closely related to emotional disturbance and occupational fatigue, and so points the way a little more clearly to the prophylactic aspect of these diseases.

HUNGARY

A Progressive Junior Section

The Hungarian Red Cross has forwarded to the League a statistical table showing the status of the Junior Red Cross in Hungary today as compared with a year ago. This reveals a remarkable advance in practically every field of activity and we are reproducing below some of the more striking figures:

	School Year 1930/31	School Year 1931/32
Number of groups	918	1,033
Members	61,021	68,414
Articles made	48,654	47,294
Groups engaged in inter-school correspondence.	158	212
Health lectures arranged . .	2,687	3,436
First Aid Courses arranged. .	193	347
Attendance at first-aid courses.	7,202	12,142
Members playing Health Game.	7,611	7,671
Groups with First Aid chests .	165	232
Groups possessing play-grounds.	236	401
Persons assisted by Juniors	17,628	19,802
Families assisted by Juniors	951	1,748
Families receiving gifts in kind.	8,485	10,751
Foodstuffs distributed by Junior groups . . . (kilogs)	10,974	8,728
Children whose school fees or text-books were paid by J.R.C	3,869	6,594
Persons provided with permanent board	1,199	2,618
Groups aiding social institutions	65	128

An analysis of these figures shows that, in Hungary as elsewhere, the economic crisis is reflected by a sharp upward trend in the number of persons assisted. This tendency is further emphasized in the financial report where we find that, out of a total expenditure of 36,366 Pengös, 23,012 was spent on relief. This is all the more praiseworthy when one considers that the income for the year 1931-32 fell nearly 8,000 Pengös short of that for the preceding year.

JAPAN

Public Health Nursing Service

The Japan Red Cross hospital at Osaka has instituted a nursing service for the care of needy patients in their homes. The staff consists of three nurses holding the diploma of the Red Cross central school for nurses in Tokyo. The service is designed for the special benefit of:

1) patients for whom there is no room in the hospital and who are in need of urgent care;
2) patients whose condition requires special treatment but does not necessitate admission to hospital;
3) persons who, after being discharged from hospital, need supervision during convalescence.

Cases to be visited are brought to the attention of the service by the commissioners of poor districts, where sickness is particularly prevalent and facilities for treatment relatively inadequate, in agreement with the physicians at the hospital. This, however, does not exclude the possibility of the nurses visiting patients in other districts.

The nurses carry out the treatments prescribed by the doctors in charge of the cases and provide appropriate care. As the districts concerned are not easily accessible by ordinary means of communication, most of the visits are made by bicycle.

NORWAY

Royal Interest in Junior Red Cross

The important meeting held in Oslo last October, and attended by 1,400 delegates from all over Norway, was honoured by the presence of Prince Olaf and his wife, Princess Martha, who both take the liveliest interest in everything appertaining to Junior Red Cross.

The work and aims of the movement were carefully explained to the delegates, who, in the intervals between speeches, were entertained by an orchestra composed of Juniors.

New Health Brochure

The Norwegian Red Cross has published a new pamphlet entitled "*Look after your Health*" which has been widely disseminated throughout the country. Copies have been presented free of charge to all the senior children in the State schools and the Ministry of Public Instruction has authorized its use as a text-book in all the schools coming within its jurisdiction.

This booklet has already attained the widest circulation of any work published by a private organization in Norway.

SPAIN

New Head for Spanish Nurses

The Spanish Red Cross announces the appointment of *Señorita Mercedes Milà* as Chief of its Nursing Division. For many years past, Srta. Milà has been giving her services as a volunteer to the Spanish Red Cross, and, prior to her new appointment, was Supervisor of the Public Health Nursing Service. She played an important part in the organization of the school of nursing attached to the Valdecilla Hospital at Santander. She is a graduate of the International Courses for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing organized by the League in London.

Inauguration of Nursing Courses

New courses for nurses were recently inaugurated at the central Red Cross hospital in Madrid, concurrently with the award of diplomas and brassards to voluntary aids having completed their studies. The brassards were distributed by Dr. Sadi de Buen, Inspector-General of Health Institutions and acting Vice-President of the Red Cross. It was announced, on this occasion, that Red Cross public health nurses had undertaken 5,429 home visits during the year.

Gift of Building Site

The town council of Daimiel (Ciudad Real) has presented the Spanish Red Cross with a plot of land for the erection of local committee offices, a clinic and a dispensary.

SWEDEN

Garments for Unemployed

Alarmed by the dearth of warm winter clothing among certain of the families of unemployed, the Swedish Red Cross launched public appeals by wireless and through the press for a nation-wide collection of garments for these unfortunate people.

As in the case of the New Zealand "Clothes Drive" described in these pages some months ago, the actual work of collecting the gifts was entrusted to Boy Scouts, who were aided in this task by 150 private cars placed at the disposal of the Red Cross for the conveyance of the parcels to depôts loaned for the purpose.

In this way 1,630 sacks of clothing, 155 sacks of footwear and a sum of 4,379 Kronen were collected. For three weeks, volunteers were busily engaged in sorting out and repairing the garments, which were ultimately distributed to the beneficiaries through the good offices of philanthropic institutions in Stockholm and the local Red Cross committees.

Feeding of Hungry Children

Prince Carl, President of the Swedish Red Cross, recently issued a broadcast appeal to the country to aid in feeding 11,500 hungry children in the northern provinces of the Kingdom.

The crisis, with its inevitable *leit-motif* — unemployment, has resulted in severe hardship for a large proportion of the inhabitants. From an enquiry into the effects of the depression on the population, conducted by the Red Cross in collaboration with the public authorities, it emerged that one of the most disquieting was the undernourishment which it entailed for the children. From the public health standpoint, this situation is fraught with far-reaching consequences.

For this reason the President of the Swedish Red Cross is endeavouring, through the 7,000 members of its local committees, to collect the sum of 200,000 Kronen necessary to provide food for 11,500 undernourished children during the winter months. The preparation and distribution of the food will be carried out in the schools themselves by the local committees. The daily cost *per capita* has been calculated at 9 öre.

The Society hopes to have the work well under way by February 1st, 1933. It is also planning to organize a "Clothes Drive" for the benefit of the same children.

In concluding his appeal, Prince Carl declared that this operation would be restricted to the winter months. The Red Cross, he said, is fully alive to the peril of accustoming the public to count on outside help in overcoming their difficulties. The present circumstances, however, are so exceptionally grave as to justify a temporary derogation of that principle.

SWITZERLAND

Junior Festival in Geneva

The Genevese section of the Swiss Junior Red Cross, which is perhaps the most active in the Confederation, recently organized at the Grand Theatre an imposing manifestation designed to attract public attention to the movement. Three performances, comprising a musical playlet by Jacques Dalcroze and a fairy-ballet, were given with the assistance of 150 members of the Junior Red Cross, pupils of the rhythmics class in a primary school of Geneva.

UNITED-STATES

Membership Maintained

Despite the fact that national agencies and community chests in the United States are suffering from drastic reductions in contributions, the American national Red Cross has suffered only a loss of approximately 70,000 members over last year's mark. It is believed that the total membership this year will aggregate 3,900,000. The losses for the most part have been in community chest cities and the gains in non-chest territories. Community chests generally have fallen 25 per cent. below their goals, and this means that Chapters of the American Red Cross in community chest cities must take a pro rata cut.

Junior Red Cross and Education

At a meeting of school superintendents of the National Education Association, the following declaration was made by a number of the delegates in support of Junior Red Cross enrolment in the schools:

"The Junior Red Cross is no new thing superimposed upon the schools. It is an informing, organizing and integrating spirit, making it possible to gather up all the threads of unselfish action and purpose, unifying them and directing them to useful ends".

Junior Organization in Small Schools

The "American Junior Red Cross News" of November, 1932, reproduces the J. R. C. programme in a one-room rural school as described by the pupil secretary of the group. It has seemed to us worthy of being passed on to our readers, who will doubtless agree with us that it would be difficult to suggest any improvements:

We organized our Junior Red Cross Club at Midway School in October. At the first meeting we talked about the beginning of the American Red Cross. We also talked about the things that we are supposed to do as members, such as keeping health rules, helping others, and promoting world friendship.

After electing our officers we divided our members into five groups, each to be responsible for a programme. Some of the things we have had in our programmes are: (1) First aid demonstrations, (2) Health talks, (3) Stories from Red Cross magazines, (4) Reports of what other Juniors are doing.

We have a chart on our wall which we call our service chart. At the bottom of this chart we have a list of services for others. Some of these are:

1) Helping pupils of lower grades.
2) Helping to keep building clean and attractive.
3) Repairing school property.
4) Boys: bringing water for all the school.
5) Girls: cooking and serving hot lunches.
6) Helping to fill a Thanksgiving box for poor children near our school.
7) Making booklets for children of orphans' home.

Last week we asked our members to make a list of the benefits which they had received by being members of the Junior Red Cross. Among these were:

1) An increase in weight due to keeping health rules.
2) A greater knowledge of the people of other countries.
3) The habit of thinking of others and trying to serve them.
4) A much more attractive school room.

And last but not least.

5) *It has made school life very interesting.*

A new Enrolment Scheme

A school in Salem, Virginia, has devised a new scheme for enrolling Junior members. A big Red Cross is pasted on the blackboard in each class. As soon as a pupil qualifies for membership, his name is inscribed beneath the symbol. The first class to attain a 100 per cent membership is given a quarter-day holiday.

The activities of this group last year included: providing clothing for children who would otherwise have been unable to attend school; donating three bushels of raw material at Thanksgiving to be converted into lunches for children unable to pay for them; filling eight bushel baskets at Christmas time with staple food for needy families. These they had distributed by the Salvation Army to avoid embarrassment to their schoolmates.

The Juniors of this school may be classed among the élite of the Junior Red Cross, for the capacity to "do good by stealth" is not within the reach of all; it needs a long apprenticeship in self-denial and service to others to develop those qualities of heart and mind which enable their possessors to forego the material satisfaction of hearing their efforts praised by those whom they are striving to serve.

YUGOSLAVIA

The M. T. Lecco Fund

At its meeting on November 29th last, the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Red Cross resolved upon the creation of a fund to perpetuate the memory of its regretted President, the late Dr. Marco T. Lecco, whose death was announced in the Review and Information Bulletin last December.

The fund will be constituted with the proceeds of gifts from the Central and other Committees of the Red Cross and from friends of Dr. Lecco, and will be administered for the benefit of Red Cross nurses and Samaritans.

Organization of Winter Day

Regular readers of the League's publication will recall that the Yugoslav Red Cross organizes two Red Cross "Days" each year, one in June to commemorate the anniversary of the wedding of the Yugoslav Sovereigns and the other on February 6th, which is the Society's birthday.

The Central Committee has decided that "Winter Day" shall be held this year on one of the Sundays comprised between January 28th and February 12th, to coincide with the assembly of local committees, which, it is thought, will lend added importance and lustre to the manifestation. With this end in view, the Central Committee has issued a certain number of recommendations to the local committees aimed at intensifying propaganda and membership enrolment though the creation of new local committees, collaboration with philanthropic associations, the organization of festivities, collaboration of Juniors, public collections and newspaper articles.

UNEMPLOYMENT: WHAT CAN THE RED CROSS DO? (1)

The League of Red Cross Societies proposes to publish occasional articles containing suggestions of what might be done by the Red Cross as an organization and by its members individually for the alleviation of distress among the unemployed. Recent estimates place the number of unemployed throughout the world at 30 millions. In every way the problem is one of the most urgent of our time. The effect of unemployment on its victims in loss of health, loss of morale, and even in lack of the bare necessities of life is so serious that no Red Cross Society can afford to neglect the question. In different countries the problem presents itself under different guises and requires different solutions. The articles are not intended to provide a general recipe for Red Cross action but to offer suggestions which may prove stimulating for the development of the work already carried on among the unemployed and their families in every country where the Red Cross pursues its mission of help and healing to the distressed.

The Secretariat of the League possesses considerable literature on the subject and will welcome enquiries either from official Red Cross organizations or from individuals anxious to develop activities of benefit to the unemployed. Suggestions for further articles in this series will also be welcomed.

HOW TO FORM A CENTRE

THERE are many good friends and members of the Red Cross who feel that it is their duty and that they would like to do something to alleviate the appalling distress among the great numbers of their fellowmen who are unemployed. The question is: What can they personally do? They can do little or nothing to influence the conditions that have produced unemployment, but they quite certainly can and should do something to mitigate its effects on the health and morale of its victims. In many countries the government provides a minimum of sustenance for unemployed workers, and in others the Red Cross supplies food and clothing. These are the first needs, but once they are satisfied there still remains much that can be done by people with energy and good will, either independently or with the official backing of the Red Cross. This article will suggest one way of rendering practical help in one of the greatest problems of our time.

The need is particularly acute in great industrial centres where men have been unemployed for months and even for years on end. Protracted idleness produces a weakening of the whole moral fibre and even the strongest give way to hopeless and helpless apathy. Supplies of food and clothing cannot prevent this. There is very real need for something more to preserve the spirit and health of the population and their readiness for work when it comes.

Just what each one of us can do individually will depend on local conditions, needs and resources, but a few general principles should be remembered. The purpose must be to stimulate and assist men to retain physical and mental fitness, alertness, interest, skill: all that is expressed in vitality. The aim must be to stimulate the qualities of self reliance, initiative and self development in the men themselves. It may need outside help to start a centre but the men should be encouraged to undertake responsibility for its success and development.

It is most important that the centres should be centres of activity. The curse of the unemployed is idleness; they want something to occupy their hands and their minds. Activity may take many forms: physical recreation for the younger men; constructional work not requiring too much skill or expense, and in the social centres musical, dramatic and educational activities as often as possible. Everything depends on leadership and co-operation of the unemployed themselves.

PRACTICAL STEPS

Local circumstances will decide the best way to start a centre. A responsible body must be formed to start the centre ; premises must be obtained; an approach has to be made to the unemployed; methods of working must be settled and matters of finance arranged. A start may be made with a group of two or three and assistance obtained from the neighbouring churches, or a Rotary club, or other organizations. The method of approaching the unemployed is a matter of the greatest importance if the centre is to develop a life of its own and not merely to be sustained from outside. It is a good thing to obtain the co-operation of the manager of the local employment exchange. He has the best knowledge of the facts of unemployment in the neighbourhood, including the approximate constitution of the age groups of the unemployed and their normal occupations. His information should be useful in preparing a centre and will be some guide to the activities to be provided. The manager may also be able to name a few of the unemployed with personal qualities that will be valuable in the management of the centre. Such men should, if possible, be associated with the promoters from the beginning. They will help to ease the work of direction and administration and will inspire confidence in their comrades.

Do not be in a hurry to start a large centre. It is easier to open a centre for a few score of men than for three or four hundred, and if it is really answering a genuine need it will grow of itself. It is essential to cultivate the group or club spirit and this is not easy if the centre is too large.

(1) We are indebted to *The Times* of London for most of the material contained in this article.

KINDS OF CENTRES

Centres are of three kinds: occupational, recreational and social. There is a temptation to start with a social centre and add other activities later, but the bolder course of beginning at once with an occupational centre has proved by experience to be more successful. A room of books and newspapers and table games is well enough for the older men but it does not solve the problem of the man whose greatest need is an outlet for his energy. Further, by beginning with occupations, the centre acquires a character which is not so easy to obtain later.

The choice of occupations depends partly on local needs and opportunities. Boot-reparing requires few tools and is a boon to the men's households. Rough carpentering for a man's own home is both interesting and useful. There may be repairs to be done or small articles to make that will improve the comfort of the home. Not a great deal of equipment is needed. Toy-making and rugmaking should give amusement and pleasure. As a rule working for sale is not permitted as centres are not intended to compete with existing concerns but there remain many things to do that would not be possible while men were in regular employment. The more skilled craftsmen can teach their craft to their comrades and a man's hobby can be turned to account.

Supervision will be essential, and someone must be in charge all the time. In fact a large centre will almost certainly need a paid superintendent, and great care should be exercised in finding the right man. A house committee composed of the unemployed members themselves is desirable. Service on the committee develops their sense of corporate responsibility and stimulates the idea of self help. The unemployed attending the centre are almost certain to include some natural leaders who will be only too glad of an opportunity to escape from idleness.

PHYSICAL TRAINING

For young men physical training will prove a strong attraction. Three things are needed: a suitable room, a competent instructor, and suitable dress. The dress need not cost much. A white vest, shorts, and shoes may be bought for about 5/- and it should usually be possible to find sympathisers to equip one man each. Rooms may be more difficult to obtain; but local societies such as the Y.M.C.A. may be able to help. The instructor must be a good teacher with personality— cheerful and firm. Part of the equipment needed can be manufactured by the men themselves but even the old army physical training has attractions for men who want to keep fit. One may have, too, indoor organized games and team exercises to give variety.

Social centres can contain various organized activities: glee or choral clubs, a dramatic club and popular lectures, entertaining and instructional. The lectures can be on any interesting subject: a skilled craftsman or professional man might explain his job—a doctor on some given question of health; a gardener or a mechanic, a footballer, an athlete. There is no limit to the choice. Only one precaution is necessary: cut out the bore. The wireless too may be found an invaluable help in entertainment and in suggesting subjects of discussion.

FINANCE

This is an important question; some money will be required, though for a modest beginning it should not be much. Premises may be rented cheaply but there will be the cost of heating and lighting, tools, materials, and management. The unemployed themselves will pay a nominal subscription, but the responsibility of raising the necessary funds must be undertaken by others.

Once the centre is formed it should not remain in isolation. In towns the centres may be formed into groups and benefit will result from the exchange of ideas. It is advisable to have a central committee for a town, provided it is composed of people who are individually keen and not merely of representatives of certain bodies or interests. In a town of any size the mayor may usefully take the lead in forming such a committee. But the initiative in the first place must be that of enthusiasts who have the welfare of the unemployed at heart and it will be local to start with.

The Red Cross in Germany has already done something on the lines indicated above and particularly at Cologne, where an old warehouse has been taken over and used daily as a workroom by 900 persons. Here and in similar centres throughout the country the unemployed can make odds and ends for their homes and repair furniture and garments. They are given a meal a day but receive no financial assistance.

It is very desirable to avoid the segregation of the unemployed into a class by themselves. The danger of this can be to some extent avoided by admitting employed men to the centre on certain nights so that both employed and unemployed men meet in a club atmosphere.

The above is only an outline of what can be done; the details can be filled in according to local possibilities and needs. But the opportunity is there for everyone who heeds the Red Cross message of help to the distressed. Don't wait for your neighbour to act first; make a small beginning; a centre that is justifying its existence will not lack support; the creation of a centre is a practical step that is within the reach of all. It is one very good answer to the question, "What can I do for the unemployed?"

OUR INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SECRETARIAT

by F. CREMONESI,

President-General of the Italian Red Cross

It will be recalled that the XIVth International Red Cross Conference (Brussels, 1930), voted the following resolution proposed by Senator Cremonesi, President of the Italian Red Cross :

"The XIVth International Red Cross Conference,

"Having examined the proposal submitted to it by Senator Cremonesi, President of the Italian Red Cross, for the establishment of Permanent Information Bureaux in the Central Committee of each national Red Cross Society and in the International Red Cross, for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information relating to persons living abroad, their conditions of existence, family affairs, address, etc.,

"In view of the clauses adopted in the International Convention of July 1929 concerning the treatment of prisoners of war;

"Considering the importance of the work performed in this direction during the late War by several Red Cross Societies and by the International Committee;

"Deems that it would be useful to begin to lay the foundations of an organization which might facilitate, in case of need, an exchange of information on the lines specified in the first paragraph of the present resolution,

"And requests the International Red Cross Committee to make a study of the question and to report thereon to the next International Conference".

The Italian Red Cross has lost no time in putting this generous plan into execution. Since September last, Italians working abroad or their families left behind in Italy have been able to make use of the private information service set up at headquarters at Rome. The service preserves the traditional neutrality of the Red Cross and scrupulously respects the confidential nature of its information.

THE present age has seen a tremendous development in relations between the various nations of the earth proportionate with the rapid strides made in the development of means of transport. These exchanges are safeguarded and regulated by treaties and conventions. They are further encouraged by institutions studying international affairs, supplying enquirers with information on the industry, agriculture, trade and finance of every country, organizing intellectual co-operation, and coordinating scientific effort throughout the world. Unfortunately the same progress is not manifest in social relations.

Business reasons and modern facilities for travel frequently separate friends or members of the same family. It is not uncommon for the force of circumstances to weaken and finally break relations between friends and members of the same family separated by distance. Yet homesickness, anxiety for the fate of a loved one, the sad or joyful events of life, often awaken a strong desire to rejoin old friends and reknit broken bonds. But the attempt is frequently met with insuperable difficulties which frustrate any new effort.

At the XIVth International Red Cross Conference in 1930, the head of the Italian delegation carefully explained the reasons which had led him to make the proposal that each national Society should set up an international private information bureau.

The weakening of ties between scattered families constitutes a grave problem. A new mode of life, the difficulty of explaining matters by letter, and social complications arising from foreign legislation rapidly lead emigrants to neglect or lose touch with the family left in the mother country. If this state of affairs continues, the unity of the family is threatened, for it often happens that law or custom intervenes to facilitate divorce and the abandonment of natural children or of the legitimate family, which cannot find its head and enforce its rights.

The Italian Red Cross, by re-uniting scattered families and maintaining relations between members of the same nation scattered in different countries is playing its traditional rôle as an influence for peace and brotherhood among those who look to the Red Cross for protection and help.

Many national Societies have given an enthusiastic welcome to the Italian initiative. The international private information secretariat set up at Italian Red Cross headquarters at the end of 1932 has already obtained the cooperation of numerous organizations and in particular that of the International Migration Service. This Service, at the request of the International Red Cross Committee, has placed its vast experience of social service case work at the disposal of the Italian Red Cross.

An account of some typical cases will show perhaps better than long commentaries what the Italian Red Cross intends to do:

Case 1: It frequently happens that Italian workers resident in the United States with families left behind in Italy, often without news and without resources, try to evade the enquiries and demands of the consular authorities to whom their families have applied. In this case the secretariat will be able to collect information on their families and transmit it to the appropriate American organizations which will try to get in touch with the workmen and encourage them to renew family relations.

Case 2: Italian families living abroad are often warned that their children entrusted to relatives or friends in Italy are being badly treated. The information service will be able to investigate the facts and either help the parents to reclaim their offspring or to assure them better protection in Italy.

Case 3: Some Italians, after becoming American citizens, abandon the family they have left behind in their native country and institute divorce proceedings

before American courts without informing their wives. The Italian Red Cross Secretariat will make enquiry and, after agreement with the Consulate and American organizations, will inform the court of the situation of the family so that the rights of the abandoned wife and children may be safeguarded.

Like the doctors who treat Italian emigrants abroad, the welfare organizations concerned base their activity on as complete a knowledge as possible of the antecedents of the case; to both, the private information secretariat can furnish useful and reliable information.

The service, whose aim is exclusively humanitarian, with no political or sectarian leaning, is not a charitable organization; it never gives financial help and does not take the place of welfare organizations either in Italy or abroad.

THE CUBAN HURRICANE

THE MARTYRDOM OF SANTA CRUZ DEL SUR

By François G. DE CISNEROS

THE sun-bathed city of Santa Cruz del Sur was settling down gratefully to well-earned rest after the day's labours, lulled by the gentle murmur of the waves caressing the shore. A care-free little town—peaceful and hardworking, drawing its sustenance from the fields and the sea—a sheltering haven for the fishing-boats fleeing before the wrath of the tempest. The sole animation was provided by the familiar movements of the inhabitants going about their daily occupations of tilling the fields and combing the sea for fish.

Cuba is the acknowledged queen of the Leeward Islands—that fertile cluster of green-clad isles, rich in folklore and legends, strewn across the breast of the Caribbean Sea like a string of precious emeralds, which, centuries ago, was the hunting-ground of bold conquistadors from far-off Europe in quest of fabulous treasure.

This idyllic land, so favoured in many respects, is also the theatre of the direst cataclysms which nature has devised to scourge mankind. As soon as the fine season draws to a close and the equinoctial winds have begun to lay their chill touch upon the land, all eyes fearfully scan the horizon in an effort to detect the first ominous signs of approaching disaster. There, far away on the sky-line, the hurricane will spring like an unchained demon from the turquoise sea, gathering velocity and frenzy with each gust, and will pounce mercilessly on its chosen prey. One year, the inhabitants watched it sidle along the riant coast and then spend its fury on the secular territory of Dominica; another year it was Porto Rico—that outpost of the Ocean—which paid toll to the enemy's insatiable lust for destruction. After that, it was the turn of the French Antillès. Who would be the next victims? was the unspoken question haunting the minds of all.

Isles of romance and of sorrow! That clear, star-lit, opalescent night, the inhabitants of Santa Cruz del Sur felt their hearts contract with anguish when, across a tranquil sky, swept the first gust, causing the domestic animals to lift apprehensive heads and the palm leaves to shiver. A moment later the hurricane, with deafening clamour, opened its diabolical symphony, terrorizing the men, women and children cowering for shelter in their flimsy habitations, snatching the roofs from the houses, shaking the monuments, twisting the railway lines, violating the churches, wresting the dead from their graves— vociferating, to the accompaniment of a sinister ululation, its hymn of carnage. Seeking out every nook and cranny in its monstrous determination to complete the work of destruction, the tornado swept with demoniac rage across the countryside, tearing up the roads and making sport of the corpses so that they appeared to be fleeing before it!

For interminable hours, the raucous voice of the elements drowned the cries for succour sent up by the despairing victims. Hundreds of children were buried beneath the ruins while their fear-crazed mothers stumbled hither and thither like wounded beasts seeking a corner to creep into and die.

And then came a frightful epilogue: the sea, hurrying to join in the slaughter, rose up in a gigantic wave and flung itself avidly upon what remained of the town; again it came, higher still, licking the church spires and the hill-tops, bearing in its wake a heterogeneous mass of fishing-boats, tugs, machinery, cattle, tree-trunks and human bodies. On the turgid waters which seethed over the stricken fields soon floated the livid, distorted corpses of the drowned.

By some miracle of heroism, a few were saved from the holocaust and speedily borne from that region of death. The public officials sent out calls for help and the whole country, shaken to its foundations by the horror of it all, rushed forward to tend the wounds of the survivors and to bury the countless dead littering the ravaged soil. The President of the Republic, General Machado, lost no time in bringing comfort to his unhappy people and

in appealing to all the provinces to join in the work of salvage.

An indescribable emotion wrung all hearts when the balance-sheet of the catastrophe was made known: close upon three thousand dead, millions of pesos swallowed up in the ruin of towns and sugar plantations, innumerable families broken up. Meanwhile the sea, placated at last, still covered the fields with its grey shroud.

Accustomed though it is to suffering of every description, "The Greatest Mother in the World"—the Red Cross—was appalled at the vision of such stark desolation. At the call of their leaders in Paris and Geneva, compassionate Societies in every corner of the globe, eager to help their bereaved "sister" in stanching the wounds of her children, were soon offering the Cuban Red Cross money and assistance. From near and far, aeroplanes were soaring forth into the clouds bearing the wherewithal to feed, clothe and nurse the survivors.

The peasant, alone among the ruins, sadly contemplates the sodden earth which, so short a while since, provided nourishment for a sturdy people, and seeks in vain the spot where once his cottage stood. His eyes are still heavy with mourning his lost dear ones, but the inherent attachment to his native soil triumphs over his despair. He already sees his town rising again, like the phoenix, from its ashes —a beautiful white town, just like the old one, with the same cheerful streets, picturesque houses, temples, and shady gardens — another Santa Cruz, in fact, which, like its ill-fated predecessor, will slumber blissfully in the moonlight, forgetful of the foam-flecked sea from whose depths will again emerge, one day, the treacherous cloud which heralds the approach of the cyclone. In his mind's eye, he sees his fellow-citizens pick up the familiar threads of their existence with the care-free insouciance of the man who, trusting in his destiny, submits blindly to the occult laws of the elements in the same way as he submits to those which decree that he shall live and die in the place where he shed his first tear and experienced his first joys.

THE RED CROSS: A FRIEND IN NEED

A pamphlet recently issued by the American Red Cross (1) provides a striking illustration both of the severity of the disasters which visit certain regions and of the methods whereby the Red Cross is able to restore whole populations to normal conditions.

There had been a shortage of rain in the years immediately preceding 1930, culminating in scanty harvests. In 1930-31, drought became general in 23 of the 48 States composing the Union, and persisted the following year in six of them. In two States, the ruin of agriculture was precipitated by an unprecedented plague of locusts. There remained literally nothing to eat for man or beast. Even the trees and shrubs were stripped of bark and leaves. In the extent of the area affected—7,500 miles in length—and in the number of the victims, the disaster was comparable to that resulting from the great Mississippi floods.

The farmers of the North-Western States are inured to climatic and every other form of hardship, all of which they bear with heroic fortitude and self-reliance. Not only had they always scorned to seek outside assistance to meet their troubles but had been generous contributors to the Red Cross. This new trial, however, deprived them of their last stand-by and they found themselves facing the approach of winter absolutely without resources, at a time when normally they should have been accumulating stores of food to tide them over till the spring, the winter storms often making communication impossible.

The Red Cross was immediately apprised of their plight and, in the autumn of 1931, began to provide isolated farmers with potatoes, beans, flour, sugar, etc. thus enabling them to face the rigours of the winter with full larders and minds relieved from immediate anxiety.

As far as possible, the Red Cross bought its provisions on the spot in order to help the local producers and merchants. Each family receiving aid was allowed to choose its own supplier. Clothing, coal and cattle-fodder were distributed in this way, the farmers themselves providing transport. Their wives helped in cutting out and sewing garments and in knitting woollies.

As a result of these measures the health of the population remained satisfactory and live stock did not suffer.

The funds came from the National Red Cross, from subscriptions in the States affected, and from gifts in money and kind. For several months civil servants gave part of their salaries. Railway companies granted free transport. School children harvested potatoes and fruit

(1) *The Drought of 1931-32, in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Washington.* Official Report of the Relief Operation of the American National Red Cross, Washington, September 1932.

in neighbouring districts. On March 7th 1932, President Hoover signed the law granting the Red Cross forty million bushels of wheat and the necessary fodder for live stock. Twenty-four hours later 14,000 bushels of wheat left Omaha for the famine districts. Lastly, farmers were granted loans to buy seed. The Red Cross distributed 29,385 packets of different kinds of seed and 106,511 bushels of seed potatoes. In the spring, rain fell for the first time in two years and the plains turned green again. An immense district had been saved!

In 1931-1932, four thousand volunteers helped 38,000 families. The total expenditure was 2,266,000 dollars while gifts in kind represented a further sum of 589,000 dollars.

Excellent organization, both in Washington and in the famine region, made it possible to send the right kind of relief without delay, to neglect not a single case and, at the same time, to encourage helpful co-operation among the sufferers themselves. Thanks to the timely intervention of the Red Cross, plains which were barren for two summers are now bearing rich harvests, and the community sense of the population has been immeasurably quickened.

COMMENTS ON THE CRISIS

H. R. H. the Prince of Wales :

''I suggested at the Albert Hall last year that we could do something to help in the most baffling and terrible of all our domestic problems —the problem of unemployment—if we would only break it up into little pieces and refuse to be paralysed by its size... Where the help is forthcoming, as I trust it will be everywhere, I am sure that many more groups of the unemployed will find the means of useful service until there is again demand for their labour.

''Don't be content with what has been accomplished, or dismayed by what remains to be done... Our difficulties provide us with a great opportunity to show what we can do''.

President Hoover.

''The time has gone by when a depression could be regarded only as a depression of business. It must be regarded now as something deeper, involving a social responsibility...

Four definite tasks confront the people of this country:

The first is to see that no man, woman or child shall go hungry or unsheltered through the winter.

The second is to see that our great benevolent agencies for character building, for hospitalization, for care of children, and all the vast number of agencies of voluntary solicitude for the less fortunate are maintained in full strength.

The third is to maintain the bedrock principle of our liberties by the full mobilization of individual and local resources and responsibilities.

The fourth is that we may maintain the spiritual impulses in our peoples for generous giving and generous service—in the spirit that each is his brother's keeper''.

M. Walter S. Gifford.

Former chairman of the President's Organization for Unemployment Relief, U. S. A.)

"The number of those permanently disabled as a result of the depression will depend upon how adequate and intelligent our relief is now and how adequate and sympathetic our reconstruction work is as we come out of the depression... for there are many hundreds of thousands whose bodies have been kept alive by public funds, whose courage and patience and ultimate return to normal life are dependent on that army of human sympathy made up of the privately supported societies''.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST INFANT MORTALITY IN FRANCE

For some time past, the public authorities in France and enlightened opinion in that country have been sorely exercized by the problem of infant mortality, which has assumed such proportions as to constitute a veritable menace to the future of the race. Several child welfare organizations, State-owned and private, are engaged in the campaign against this scourge. With a view to lending greater homogeneity and efficacity to these efforts, which have hitherto been more or less sporadic, the French Government recently took steps to bring about a rational organization of child welfare activities, such as has already been achieved in the campaigns against tuberculosis and venereal disease.

THE scheme evolved by the Ministry of Public Health provides for concentration of the activities of public groups and private agencies in each *department* (provincial division), taking the urban or rural Maternal and Infant Welfare Centre as the nucleus of such concentration.

This organization will consist of the following units:

At headquarters: a child welfare clinic with ante-natal, heredo-syphilitic and infant consultations, and possibly a milk kitchen.

At any other points of the medical circumscription dependent on headquarters where their establishment may be deemed necessary and feasible: municipal, departmental or private infant and ante-natal consultations, preferably at the residence of the practitioner.

The Centre will be directed by a chief physician acting simultaneously as medical inspector of the corresponding medical circumscription, assisted by one or more public health nurses and certificated midwives specially trained to serve as rural child welfare assistants.

In addition to his normal duties at the clinic, the doctor of the Centre will carry out the periodical medical supervision of children and expectant mothers, the permanent medico-social supervision of whom will be entrusted to the public health nurse or midwife. A striking feature of this plan is the prominence which it gives to the rôle of the public health nurse, especially from the medico-social standpoint.

The control of this organization will be entrusted, under the authority of the Prefect, to the Inspector of Public Assistance as regards the administrative side of the work, and to the Health Inspector as regards the technical aspect, *with the participation of private agencies capable of collaborating usefully with the public authorities.*

The working expenses of the Centres organized by private agencies will be met in part by a financial contribution from the Departmental authorities. The ministerial plan counts also upon the moral and material support of the Social Insurance Funds, which stand to benefit greatly from the Centres in view of the fact that maternity risks are covered by social insurance.

While this plan was being elaborated by the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare was inviting the health insurance bodies to take steps, in each Department, to bring about the organization of preventive work among mothers and children, as well as in connexion with other social evils such as tuberculosis, cancer, venereal disease, etc. To this end the Ministry envisaged, on the one hand, the establishment of "Diagnosis Centres" provided with a specialized staff and the technical equipment necessary to supplement the precarious resources at the disposal of general practitioners for making early diagnosis, and, on the other hand, the co-ordination of the medical services (public health nurses and social workers) and the collaboration of the Social Insurance Funds with existing agencies (maternity and child welfare bodies, anti-tuberculosis and anti-venereal clinics, anti-cancer centres, etc.,)

In addition, the National Child Welfare Committee invited the Presidents of the Departmental Sections to grant free access to their services for the representatives of private agencies and Social Insurance Funds, with a view to bringing about co-ordination of efforts for common action and efficacious collaboration in favour of child welfare.

In the face of this tendency towards concentration and co-ordination of endeavour in combating the ravages caused by social diseases and, first and foremost, the loss to the nation resulting from an exaggeratedly high infant mortality rate, the Red Cross could not remain inactive. Taking as basis the governmental appeal for close collaboration between the public authorities and private agencies, the Marquis de Lillers, President of the Central Committee of the French Red Cross, addressed a circular letter to the regional delegates of the *Société de Secours aux blessés Militaires* (Society for the Relief of War Wounded) explaining in detail the ministerial plan and urging them to associate the efforts of the Society with that common action. This circular constitutes so remarkable and succinct an interpretation of the duty of the Red Cross, in time of peace, to second the efforts of the public authorities for the improvement of health and of the form which such collaboration should take, that a reproduction of some of the essential passages cannot fail to interest other National Societies:

... 1. In the first place, it should be pointed out that, for some time past, the public authorities have been directing particular attention to the campaign against infant mortality through a rational conception of ante-natal and post-natal preventive care.

2. The public authorities have found that, if that campaign is to prove fully effective, it will require the collaboration of private health and child welfare agencies...

Our Society has no right to remain deaf to that appeal and should associate its efforts in a common endeavour. Article 25 of the League of Nations Covenant has clearly defined the mission of the Red Cross *in time of peace*, which is: the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world. Let us therefore resolutely enter the field of social welfare and prove ourselves the auxiliaries of the public authorities in time of peace just as, *in time of war*, we are the auxiliaries of the Army Medical Service.

If we are to assume in this common task the share to which we are entitled by our history and traditions, we must abandon past errors and cease working in an uncoordinated manner which only scatters our forces and leads to duplication.

3. The forms of collaboration envisaged by the public authorities include, among others:

The admission of representatives of private agencies, or groups of private agencies, to the Commissions, Sections, etc... This form of collaboration is very valuable inasmuch as, in addition to the opportunities it offers of taking an active part in the debates and deliberations, it permits of the exercise of that policy of presence which is so useful for observing trends and intervening if need be, to prevent the adoption of too individualistic measures.

The intensive utilization of public health nurses and social workers for visiting mothers in their homes to instruct and advise them, notifying the doctor and seeing that his orders are faithfully executed, combating prejudices and evil influences, preventing premature weaning and injudicious mixed feeding, etc. This will entail the supplementary training of our bedside nurses in child welfare and public health subjects.

The participation of existing bodies and institutions not only in the maternal and child welfare field (ante-natal and infant consultations, rearing centres, maternity homes, crêches, homes for infants, milk kitchens, etc...) but also in the campaign against tuberculosis, venereal disease and cancer. Here becomes manifest the necessity of our Committees' equipping themselves to render the largest and most varied collaboration possible and the advantage of increasing the number of their maternity and infant clinics.

4. The public authorities are fully alive to the fact that the collaboration which they demand of private bodies should be indemnified by some pecuniary aid to enable these bodies to meet the additional expenditures involved. A very small fraction of the necessary funds will be forthcoming from the State budget, the remainder being provided by the Departmental Councils and, for the greater part, by the Social Insurance Funds to whose interest it is to utilize private agencies and existing services of proven value rather than to set up autonomous bodies of which they would have to assume the costly management.

5. Tentative efforts in this direction are already being made in several Departments. We would urge you, in the first place, to respond to any overtures which might be made to you and even to provoke them, if need be, and, in the second place, to invite your Committee Chairmen to do likewise on the basis of the foregoing desiderata.

Although it is not possible for the Central Committee to give any precise directions in view of the need for adapting each case to local contingencies, we would strongly urge you to establish contact and maintain the closest possible relations with the Prefects, the Departmental services for public health and public welfare, the Social Insurance Funds, the departmental sections of the National Child Welfare Committee and with other private bodies or groups of bodies, with a view to establishing that collaboration without which our isolated efforts are in danger of remaining sterile.

ADULT EDUCATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

THE following extract from a recent issue of *The International Quarterly of Adult Education* seems peculiarly apposite in view of the article on occupational centres for unemployed published on another page of the present issue of the Bulletin:

"Unemployed men and women are anxious to use their enforced leisure to do something which will make them feel they can still play a useful part in the life of the community. Unemployment is the most subversive factor at work in the society of today. It renders people lethargic and weak; they are unable to take any pride in their country; in short, it leads to social decay. If the social framework is to be rebuilt firmly, something of long term value in relation to the question of unemployment has to be accomplished. We are emphatically of the opinion that it is not charity which will do big work in this field, nor is it possible for government agencies to build up the sort of services envisaged. *It is a work which must fall to the hand of voluntary bodies and individuals.*

"The British Institute of Adult Education is undertaking the stimulation of effort throughout the country. It is felt that the high value of the experiments already made in different centres is unmistakable and that these activities deserve a far wider extension... The Institute is issuing a periodical bulletin which will give up-to-date information on latest and suggested developments. A pamphlet on Needs and Possibilities has also been prepared which gives advice on the initiation of schemes, makes suggestions in regard to premises for the unemployed, equipment, and the development of educational facilities."

In another chapter of the same publication, we learn that the Viennese Association for Adult Education has established courses for the unemployed with considerable success. Similar courses are planned by other organizations. The question of Voluntary Work Service is being eagerly discussed in the light of German experience.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The Paris School of Puericulture Finds a New Home

This Franco - American foundation, in the constitution of which the French Red Cross took so large a share, has now been housed in new and enlarged premises, better adapted to its needs and importance.

The instruction given at the school comprises the medical and social welfare of the expectant mother, the nursing mother and of the child from birth to adolescence. The theoretical and practical courses are attended by medical students, doctors, social workers and student nurses. The latter are accommodated at the school, a comfortable and attractively-furnished room being provided for each.

The technical equipment of the school includes an ante-natal consultation, a baby clinic, a clinic for children of pre-school age, a school dispensary, anti-tuberculosis, anti-venereal and mental hygiene dispensaries, radiographic, ophthalmological, oto-rhino-laryngological, stomatological, orthopædic and ultra-violet ray services, laboratories, a library, lecture halls and study rooms. The practical work section is remarkably well equipped. There is also a section for mothers with lactation troubles.

The public health nursing service attached to the school serves the whole neighbourhood, which is in a populous, working-class quarter of the capital.

Endowed at last with a setting worthy of its character as a model institution for the demonstration and teaching of modern child welfare methods, the Paris School of Puericulture seems destined to become the Mecca of child welfare students from all over the world.

The Problem of Financial Appeals

Few men have been appealed to more or have made more appeals themselves for humanitarian causes than John D. Rockefeller, Junior, an American known alike for his wealth and for his generosity. His remarks on the method of making appeals therefore have the weight of experience and authority.

It is not an easy thing, he says, to solicit funds. Perhaps I have done that sort of thing more in my life than most people and, on the other hand, I have had considerable experience being solicited myself. There are three things for a solicitor to remember and to do :

First, of course, to be able to state the purpose of the solicitation and give the essential facts. Second, to be able to state what the gifts of other people are. Each one of us likes to know what other people in our group, or our kind, are doing. And third, don't tell your prospect what you *think* he will give. Tell him very indirectly and without too much emphasis what you *hope* he will give. It has always been very helpful to me, on both sides of the picture, to use that technique and I recommend it.

The Advantages of Preventive Medical Examinations

Twenty five German life insurance companies, grouped into an Association, have undertaken the health education of their policy-holders. The methods employed include the circulation of 100,000 copies of an illustrated periodical : *Gesundheitsdienst* and articles in popular weeklies. It is estimated that a million persons are reached by this propaganda.

Fourteen of the companies provide facilities for an annual medical examination of their policy holders, 35 per cent of whom avail themselves thereof.

The *Leipziger Lebensversicherung* has ascertained that the mortality among those examined is ten per cent below the average. This tends to prove that such examinations really do prolong life by inducing the subject to follow treatment and take precautions which he might have neglected had the examination not revealed the necessity for so doing at a moment when he mistakenly believed himself to be enjoying perfect health.

These observations confirm the experience of the American, British, Swiss, Dutch, Japanese and other insurance companies which are likewise seeking to extend the practice of preventive medical examinations.

Here is material for reflexion for those Red Cross Societies with polyclinics or health centres. Nothing is easier than to organize preventive medical examinations when the necessary staff and equipment are already available.

International Association of Preventive Pediatry

The International Association of Preventive Pediatry, which constitutes the medical section of the International Save the Children Union, held its second Conference at Geneva in September 1932, under the chairmanship of Professor J. Taillens of Lausanne. Dr. René Sand represented the League of Red Cross Societies. The two subjects discussed were the prevention and treatment of syphilis in the children of syphilitic parents and the prevention of neurosis in children. The reports, discussions and conclusions appear in a volume just published by the Save the Children Union.

First Aid on Highways

M. de Bernonville having resigned his appointment as Secretary of the Standing International Commission on First Aid on Highways, Major Petersén, who represents the League Secretariat on the Commission, will take over his duties pending the nomination of a successor. Dr. Béhague, Chairman of the Commission, in a letter to the League of Red Cross Societies, expressed his regret at M. de Bernonville's departure and recalled his valuable services in promoting agreements between national Red Cross Societies and touring associations for the installation of first aid posts on highways.

LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS NOTES

Board of Governors Sir Claude Hill having resigned his seat on the Board of Governors of the League, on which he represented the Indian Red Cross Society, the Managing Body of that Society has appointed its former Chairman, *Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith, Kt., C. I. E.*, to replace him.

Contributions to League Budget The following contributions have been received towards the administrative expenses of the League for the year 1932 :

Belgian Red Cross	1,000 Belgas
Hungarian Red Cross	200 Pengös
Italian Red Cross.	20,000 Lire
Mexican Red Cross	1,654 Francs

Missions *Colonel Draudt*, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, and *Mr. Swift*, Secretary General, met in Budapest on January 23rd for the purpose of visiting the Hungarian Red Cross. They subsequently left for Vienna where they conferred with the leaders of the Austrian Red Cross.

Dr. Sand, Technical Counsellor, has paid several visits to Brussels for the purpose of conferring with the Belgian Red Cross in regard to the relations between that Society and the League.

M. de Rougé, Assistant Secretary-General, went to Geneva on January 20th to attend a meeting of the editorial committee of *Matériaux pour l'Etude des Calamités*. The International Red Cross Committee was represented at the same meeting by M. Clouzot, Chief of the Secretariat.

Major Petersén, Director of the Relief Division, attended a meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Refugees at the League of Nations on January 24th.

Mrs. Carter, Director of the Nursing Division, went to London on January 14th for the meeting of the Old Internationals' Association. On January 16th, she attended a meeting of the Organization Committee of the International Courses at Bedford College.

On January 27th, Mrs. Carter left for a tour of Italy, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, to discuss nursing questions with the national Red Cross Societies of these countries.

BOOK REVIEWS

Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge, published at Geneva by the International Red Cross Committee. Summary of the Dec. 1932, issue :

Extension et délimitation du rôle de la Croix-Rouge (Extension and definition of the rôle of the Red Cross), by Max HUBER, President of the International Red Cross Committee. — *Une loi type pour la protection du signe et du nom de la Croix-Rouge sur territoire national* (A model law for the protection of the Red Cross name and emblem on national territory), by Paul DES GOUTTES member of the I. R. C. C.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN POPULATIONS AGAINST CHEMICAL WARFARE : *Conférence pour la réduction et la limitation des armements : armes chimiques, bactériennes, incendiaires.*

CHRONICLE : *Aviation sanitaire en temps de paix* (Air ambulance services in peace-time).

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INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

Matériaux pour l'étude des Calamités, published by the Geographical Society of Geneva under the auspices of the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies. Summary of No IV, Year 1931-32 :

I. *La séismicité dans l'Afrique du nord, 1911-1931*, by Mme A. HÉE. — *Das Yangtse-Hochwasser, 1931*, by L. BRANDL. — *Incendies de forêts en France.* — II. *National Commissions : France*, by General CHAPEL. — III. *Chronicle of the International Relief Union :* The coming into force of the Convention. — IV. Bibliography.

Hospital Organization and Management, ny Captain J. E. Stone, M. C., F. S. A. A., F. S. S., F. R. Econ. S., Faber and Faber, London. 2nd edition 1932.

Mr. Stone, formerly chief accountant of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, and now Secretary of the Birmingham Hospital Centre, is one of the foremost authorities of the day on hospital questions. His book *Hospital Accounts and Financial Contral* has been adopted as the vade mecum of hospital accountancy services. In another work, covering a wider range, he surveys from the practical angle the different functions of hospitals : their multifarious departments, their constitution, administration, staff, sources of revenue, construction, purchasing system, accountancy, legal status, their relations *inter se* and with the outside world.

Although primarily British in origin, this documentation also covers the United States. Mr. Stone has made excellent use of the world-wide contacts afforded by his functions as Chairman of the Permanent Study Commission on Accountancy of the International Hospital Association.

The second edition of his book on *Hospital Organization and Management* is the fruit of many years of experience and constitutes a reliable guide to all the working details of that intricate mechanism which the hospital has become today.

As Sir Arthur Stanley, Lord Onslow and the late Viscount Cave state in their prefaces to the book, Captain Stone has rendered an inestimable service to hospitals all over the world by sharing with them, in so systematic, thorough and practical a form, the treasures of his wide personal experience.

Hygiene at Sea, by Harald Engelsen. Centraltrykkeriet, Oslo, 1932. Pp. 146. Price: Kr. 2.50.

In his recently published book: *Skibshygienens Saga*, Dr. Harald Engelsen traces the development of hygiene at sea through a long period. His association with the Norwegian Red Cross in connection with its campaign for improving the conditions under which seamen work has done much to bring this subject to the fore in the international field. His book, which has already appeared in instalments in the journal of the Norwegian Medical Association, is illustrated by the author himself. He is an artist in words as well as in pictures; and the reader will find that in the past the fate of the seaman has been often extraordinarily and unnecessarily tragic. It is to be hoped that this book will be translated into other languages and will be read by all who have the welfare of the seaman at heart.

Second International Congress of Open-Air Schools (Brussels, April 6th to 11th, 1931), **Proceedings and Reports.** Brussels 1932, p. 336. Ancienne Librairie Castaigne, rue Montagne-aux-Herbes-Potagères, 22.

This handsome volume contains an exhaustive account of the labours of the Second International Congress of Open-Air Schools which, two years ago, brought together in Brussels more than four hundred representatives from Europe, the two Americas and even so far afield as Oceania. The reports, discussions and resolutions of the Congress should lend powerful impetus to the orientation, development and world-wide extension of the movement in favour of open-air schools which, although still exceptional in the scholastic system, are destined to multiply rapidly, for the greater well-being of the children and even the teachers themselves. They present yet another by no means negligible advantage, and that is that they cost much less to construct than the ordinary school.

The third International Congress will meet in Germany in 1934.

Milbank Memorial Fund, Report for the Year 1931, New-York.

Since its inception twenty-seven years ago, the Foundation established by Mrs. Elizabeth Milbank Anderson has expended nearly $9,000,000 on 147 projects for hygiene, public health, instruction and education. In such difficult times as those through which we are now passing, the Milbank Fund, far from restricting its efforts, is drawing on its capital.

Its greatest achievement is, without contest, the organization of the three Health Demonstrations in Cattaraugus County (a rural community), Syracuse (a town of 200,000 inhabitants) and New York. After five years of experiment in this field, the Milbank Fund is engaged in various new attempts to improve health services and medical practice. It has subsidized a large number of enterprises, including the rural health centre at Ting-Hsien, China. It has been responsible for the publication of Professor Winslow's treatise on *Public Health in Farm and Village*, a report on school ventilation and Sir Arthur Newsholme's wide-scale international investigation into *The Relations between Public and Private Medical Practice*.

Methods and Problems of Medical Education (*Twenty-First Series*). (Nursing Education and Schools of Nursing). The Rockefeller Foundation, 61, Broadway, New-York, N. Y., 1932.

With this volume specially devoted to Nursing Education and Schools of Nursing, the Rockefeller Foundation terminates its intere ing series comprising 21 volumes of articles on Methods of Teaching employed in Medical Education. It contains tabloid accounts of nursing education in the United States, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Hungary and Siam, and articles by such well known pioneers of nursing education as Miss Annie W. Goodrich, Yale University; Miss E. Kathleen Russell, Toronto University; Mlle de Joannis, Mlle Greiner and Mlle Dr. Hamilton, France.

The volume, which is well illustrated with photographs and plans, provides interesting reading and valuable material which will be of assistance to teachers and administrators in hospitals and schools of nursing. A limited number of volumes is distributed gratis to persons interested upon application to the Rockefeller Foundation, 61 Broadway, New York City.

El A. B. C. de la Higiene. Bibliôteca popular del Instituto de Medicina social. Lima, 1932.

Professor C. E. Paz Soldan, the promoter of health and social medicine in Peru, has followed the example of Paul Bert and others in writing a book for children. He has just published an illustrated A. B. C. of Health for the use of school children. It has 25 illustrations with comments calculated to foster habits of health, mutual aid and citizenship which are the very essence of the Junior Red Cross programme. There is a special section for teachers. The book presents modern science in a clear attractive form and will be a valuable aid in the propagation of health and the development of the Junior Red Cross in Spanish-speaking countries. It shows the great services medical illustrations can render if they are made available for a public anxious to follow their teaching.

Spending the day in China, Japan and the Philippines, by Sally Lucas Jean and Grace T. Hallock. Published by Harper and Brothers, New York 1932.

The avowed object of Miss Jean and Miss Hallock in writing this book was to acquaint the children of the West with the lives and customs of their comrades in the East and thus, through sympathy and understanding, to strengthen still further the bonds of friendship which the Junior Red Cross has already established between them.

We are introduced in turn to a typical family in China, Japan and the Philippine Islands and invited to spend a day with the children of each. They are presented in their every-day environment, in the home and the school, the town and the countryside, so that one gets a composite picture of their lives and the influences which contribute to the formation of their characters.

The book is dedicated to

John Barton Payne,

Chairman, Board of Governors, the League of Red Cross Societies (World Red Cross) and the American National Red Cross, whose love, sympathy and wise guidance have brought happiness into the lives of millions of children throughout the world.

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Le Gérant : B. de Rougé.

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